



Results 1993-2005

Governance/Rule of law/Democracy

60 MPs have opened constituency offices in their home districts through the support of USAID.¹

150 young people have provided Members of Parliament with effective, skilled staff, while gaining work experience through a program introduced by USAID now fully managed and funded by Parliament.

USAID is leading an initiative to train every mayor in Macedonia to take on new responsibilities due to decentralization.²

The Law on Local Self Government and the Law on Local Government Finance, which define the legal framework for decentralization, were drafted with USAID technical assistance.³

More than 3,000 local election monitors have been trained through USAID and have contributed to free and fair elections in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.⁴

The One Year Journalism Diploma Course offered by the Macedonian Institute for the Media is a result of USAID assistance. All of the graduates from the first intake now have jobs in newsrooms.⁵

Civic education is now part of the curriculum in Macedonia's elementary schools thanks to a USAID funded initiative.

\$25.2 million has been spent on over 829 *participatory* community development projects: as an example, when \$29,000 was provided to rehabilitate a public school in Debar, the community agreed to waive the \$30/month cost for 32 Roma students.

Over 200 NGOs have been supported in their efforts to increase citizen participation in political and social decision making: for example, USAID supported NGOs helped draft the successful application to the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS and TB resulting in a grant of \$4.3 million.

The Law on Independent Court Budget, which increases the control of the judiciary over its budget, was drafted and passed with USAID assistance.⁶

The high-stakes 2002 census was conducted in accordance with international standards with the support of USAID.⁷

10 customer service centers have opened providing urban planning and one stop permit issuing in municipalities throughout Macedonia with the help of USAID.⁸

Domestic violence is now a crime due to amendments to the Criminal Code. The first legal aid clinic for victims of domestic violence has provided over 500 victims with legal and psychological assistance. These initiatives have had the support of USAID.

The Union of Education, Science and Culture --Teachers (CONK) which was on the verge of splitting along ethnic lines in 2001, has grown by nearly 8,000 members – a growth that came mainly from ethnic Albanian elementary school teachers. USAID assistance played a major role.

Enterprise Assistance/Competitiveness

Dairies supported by USAID have exported more cheese in the first quarter of this year than they did in all of 2004.⁹

Average export price of bottled wines, a sector supported by USAID, has increased by 13 percent in the last year.

Foreign tourists traveling to Macedonia for adventure tourism, a sector supported by USAID, have more than doubled.¹⁰

IT firms assisted by USAID have more than doubled their exports of software and services.¹¹

Apparel companies supported by USAID have signed contracts worth more than \$1 million with new customers in new markets year-to-date 2005.

30,000 jobs have been created (or saved) which benefit more than 1,000 small and medium enterprises supported through USAID.¹²

171 meat and dairy products are certified with the Seal of Quality, established in 1999 through USAID.¹³

Nearly 150 new product collections for the international home accessories, fashion and gift markets, and local consumer and tourist markets, have been designed and provided market support through USAID's Aid to Artisans project.

Local and export sales for craft enterprises facilitated by USAID through Aid to Artisans increased by 5.2 times (or 520%) between 2003 and 2004.

Education

Over 5000 students are currently enrolled at South Eastern European University (SEEU), a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual university institution founded with the support of USAID.¹⁴

Affordable high-speed internet will be available nationwide by September of 2005, and will be used by 460 schools free of charge thanks to USAID.

Every secondary school in Macedonia has a computer lab, thanks to USAID.¹⁵

3,300 computers will have been installed in 360 primary schools by September 2005, thanks to USAID.

Approximately 60 Roma children enrolled and stayed in school due to a USAID's pilot project. This led to a \$3 million, multi-donor program focused on helping Roma children in all levels of school in Macedonia.

All Roma youth who attend secondary school and university are receiving scholarships to continue their education, thanks to USAID.

5,000 primary and secondary teachers will have been trained in basic IT skills by September 2005, thanks to USAID.

In nearly 50 vocational schools with a total enrollment of 15,000 students, career centers and virtual firms are being established and real firms will be engaged in business ventures as of September 2005, thanks to USAID.¹⁶

School directors must now be certified within two years of being hired. USAID developed the Director Certification program to legalize the status of all school directors.¹⁷

The first coordination meeting of donors in the Education sector was held in April 2005 through the auspices of USAID.

Finance/Trade/Regulation

USAID helped Ministry of Finance figure out a solution to a \$500 million problem— it owed that much to individuals whose foreign currency accounts had been frozen.

As of 2004 Macedonia has a sovereign debt rating (BB+), thanks to USAID.

Macedonia joined the World Trade Organization in 2003-- USAID played a major role in supporting the Ministries involved in the process.

USAID played a major role in getting a new Law on Electronic Communications adopted which helps creating a level playing field for those in the sector.¹⁸

All Macedonians employed since 2003 will be able to choose from the two private Pension Funds that complement the state-owned Pension Fund. Reform of Macedonia's pension system is being coordinated and led by USAID.

Over \$220 million in securities have been sold since 2003 through Macedonia's first Treasury securities market. USAID helped set up the system.

¹ This activity contributed to parliamentary accountability and increased citizen participation in the legislative process.

² Supported by all international donor organizations, currently being carried out through July 2005.

³ Date of passage: Law on Local Self Government (Jan 2002) and the Law on Local Government Finance (Sept 2004)

⁴ USAID has played a major role in supporting free and fair elections. We claim credit in particular for our support for increased ballot security provisions in the election law; improved election coverage by local media; and voter education.

⁵ As of Aug 2004

⁶ Passed in 2003

⁷ A prerequisite for many of the decentralization and public sector reforms mandated by the FWA

⁸ as part of our overall effort to prepare municipalities to assume increased responsibilities once decentralization occurs. The European Agency for Reconstruction will spend approximately 900,000 Euros to replicate our model in the remaining municipalities.

⁹ Using CY years

¹⁰ Increase of 143 percent

¹¹ Increase of 119 percent in CY 2003 over CY 2002-- latest figures available

¹² Through E-biz activities

¹³ A majority of Macedonia's consumers recognize the seal. Businesses who want to attract or keep their customers are raising their game as they strive for this recognition. The current SOQ requirements considerably exceed the official food safety and quality regulation.

¹⁴ Five departments (faculties) are operating. Over 75% of those enrolled are Albanian-- 20% non-Albanian.

¹⁵ 100 secondary schools in partnership with the Government of Macedonia and People's Republic of China

¹⁶ 44 firms, 50 career centers

¹⁷ Aims to professionalize school administration and reduce turnover of school directors who were all previously political appointees.

¹⁸ (Jan 2005)